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# OAKHAM

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

# YEAR ENDING

31st. DECEMBER, 1958.

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# OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## A N N U A L  R E P O R T.

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

## 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my twentieth Annual Report dealing with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ..... | 2,250 |
| Registrar General's estimate of population..... | 4,180 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of 1958 ..... | 1,348 |
| Rateable Value at 31st. December, 1958 ..... | 50,226 |
| Nett product of a penny rate ..... | £200. |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births - Legitimate | 34 | 31 | 65 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Still Births - Legitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

| | Rate for District. | Rate for England and Wales. |
|---|---|---|
| Birth Rate | 16.1 | 16.4 |
| Death Rate | 7.3 | 11.7 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births. | 15.1 | 22.5 |

# OAKEAN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## A A N U A L  R E P O R T.

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

## 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present herewith my twentieth Annual Report dealing with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ..... | 2,290 |
| Mr. Barker's General's estimate of population..... | 8,120 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of 1958 ..... | 1,342 |
| Rateable Value at 31st. December, 1958 ..... | 50,226 |
| Rate product of a penny rate ..... | £200. |

## VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births - Legitimate | 34 | 31 | 65 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Still Births - Legitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

| | Rate for District. | Rate for England and Wales. |
|---|---|---|
| Birth Rate | 16.1 | 16.[illegible] |
| Death Rate | 7.5 | 11.7 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births. | 15.1 | 22.5 |

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | Males. | Females. |
|---|---|---|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach. | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast. | - | 1 |
| Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms. | 1 | 3 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 5 | 10 |
| Coronary disease, angina. | 2 | 6 |
| Hypertension with heart disease. | - | 1 |
| Other heart disease. | 3 | 10 |
| Other circulatory disease. | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia. | - | 3 |
| Bronchitis. | 1 | - |
| Other diseases of respiratory system. | 1 | - |
| Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea. | 1 | - |
| Hyperplasia of prostate. | 1 | - |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | 1 | 3 |
| All other accidents. | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide. | 1 | 1 |
| | 20 | 41 |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J.Young, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.Camb.
The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.
Telephone No. - Melton Mowbray 3343.

Public Health Inspector - H. Tabberer, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.
The Public Health Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

| | |
|---|---|
| Nose and Throat Swabs. | 12 |
| Faeces and Urine. | 27 |
| Blood. | 4 |
| Sputa. | 17 |
| V. and C. | 3 |
| Milk. | 5 |
| Water. | 18 |
| Misc. | 13 |
| | 99 |

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | Males. | Females. |
|---|---|---|
| Malignant neoplasms, stomach. | 1 | |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast. | | 1 |
| Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms. | 1 | |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system. | 2 | |
| Coronary disease, angina. | 1 | |
| Hypertension with heart disease. | 3 | |
| Other heart disease. | 1 | |
| Other circulatory disease. | 1 | |
| Pneumonia. | 1 | |
| Bronchitis. | 1 | |
| Other diseases of respiratory system. | 1 | |
| Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea. | 1 | |
| Hyperplasia of prostate. | 1 | |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | 1 | |
| All other accidents. | 1 | 1 |
| Suicide. | 1 | |
| | 20 | 2 |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THIS AREA.

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| Milk. | 5 |
| Water. | 16 |
| Misc. | 15 |
| | 99 |

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

| | Bacteriological. | Chemical. |
|---|---|---|
| **(1) WATER.** | | |
| Number of Samples taken for Analysis :- | | |
| (a) from wells. ..... | 1 | - |
| (b) from piped supply ..... | 17 | 1 |
| (c) at source of public supply ..... | - | - |
| Results of samples taken :- | | |
| (a) from wells - unsatisfactory - | - | - |
| satisfactory - | 1 | - |
| (b) from piped supply - unsatisfactory | - | - |
| satisfactory | 17 | 1 |
| (c) at sources - unsatisfactory - | - | - |
| satisfactory - | - | - |

The public supply was unrestricted throughout the year.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but fifteen occupied houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, and parts of Barleythorpe and Burley in the Rural District of Oakham. On several occasions the supply has been turned on to the whole of Barleythorpe when their private supply has failed, and there is now the probability that the private supply will be discontinued.

Almost 99% of the houses and over 99% of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In a few cases the water is not laid into the houses.
The number of such cases has declined during the year. There are no public standpipes.

The following is a report on a chemical analysis of the treated water :-

REPORT OF THE ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER
received on the 17th. February, 1958
from: Oakham Urban District Council.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance because it carries only a few particles of matter in suspension.

The water is on the alkaline side of neutrality, hard in character, but not to an excessive degree, it contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from iron and other metals. Organic quality is very satisfactory.

From the aspects of the chemical analysis the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Bacteriological. Chemical.

(1) WATER.

Number of Samples taken for analysis :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) from wells. ..... | 1 | - |
| (b) from piped supply ..... | 17 | 1 |
| (c) at source of public supply ..... | - | - |

Results of samples taken :-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) from wells - unsatisfactory | - | - | - |
| satisfactory | 1 | - | - |
| (b) from piped supply - unsatisfactory | - | - | - |
| satisfactory | 17 | 1 | - |
| (c) at sources - unsatisfactory | - | - | - |
| satisfactory | - | - | - |

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CHEMICAL RESULTS EXPRESSED IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.

Turbidity: Less than 3

Colour: Nil. Odour: Nil. Taste: ... Normal

pH: 7.8 Free Carbon Dioxide: 3

Electric Conductivity: 650 Alkalinity as Ca $CO_3$: 100

Hardness - Total: 270 Carbonate: 100 Non-carbondate: 170

Nitrate Nitrogen: 2.4 Nitrite Nitrogen: Absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000 Oxygen absorbed: 0.10

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.008 Residual chlorine: Absent.

Metals: Absent. Fluoride (F): 0.2

6th. March, 1958. GORDON MILES.

(11) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No significant change has been made. Three composite samples of raw sewage and 3 of treated effluent show that satisfactory treatment is occurring.

(111) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1958.:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Privies ..... | - |
| (2) | Pail Closets ..... | 17 |
| (3) | Water Closets ..... | Approx. 1776 |

Number of pail closets converted to water carriage system during the year ..... 8

At ten of these seventeen pail closets, either water mains or sewers are not available within the distance laid down in the Act. Some of the remaining seven are at old houses, which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation improves. The Council intend to lay sewers which will open up more land for housing and enable five pail closets to be converted and several cesspools to be abolished. The scheme is now prepared.

(IV) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The tip at the disused brickyard in Oakham which has been in use for about 50 years has been abandoned and tipping is now done in a disused ironstone railway cutting 5 miles from the town between Ashwell and Cottesmore.

The small quantity of nightsoil is tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

(V) SMOKE.

The only big chimney in the town now in use is at the Catmose Vale Hospital. No complaints have been received during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of complaints received ..... | 21 |
| Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints ..... | 20 |

| Nature of Inspection. | | Number of Inspections and Re-visits. |
|---|---|---|
| Dwelling Houses (all purposes) | ... | 126 |
| Tents, Vans, etc., | ... | 2 |
| Slaughter houses. | ... | 15 |
| Food Premises. | ... | 40 |
| Dairies. | ... | 10 |
| Offensive Trades. | ... | - |
| Animal keeping. | ... | 2 |
| Factories etc., | ... | 30 |
| Shops. | ... | 30 |
| Other premises. | ... | 75 |
| Water Wastage. | ... | 20 |

N O T I C E S.

| Preliminary | Housing | Other |
|---|---|---|
| Outstanding on 1st.Jan. 1958. | 2 | - |
| Issued during the year ..... | 9 | 10 |
| Complied with during year ... | 10 | 10 |
| Outstanding 31st December,1958. | 1 | - |
| **Statutory** | | |
| Outstanding 1st. Jan. 1958 .. | 3 | - |
| Iasued during the year. .. | 3 | - |
| Complied with during year. .. | 3 | - |
| Outstanding 31st December,1958. | 3 | - |

The outstanding cases are Demolition Orders where houses are vacated but not yet demolished.

Defects or Nuisances.

Most of the work is done by letter, interview or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used.

## CONTROL OF RATS.

The Council in conjunction with the Rural District Councils of Oakham, Uppingham, Ketton and Barnack employed a Pest Control Officer. All complaints were promptly dealt with and there is little evidence of rats in the town, but the number of cases of slight infestation has grown probably due to reduced activities of Agricultural Committees.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Bed bugs were found in a Council House. After treatment the affected bedding was destroyed.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council during the summer holidays. Six inspections were made during the season.

## INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were five distributors and four premises registered. Ten inspections of premises were made.

No action was found necessary under Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. All milk sold in the district now is tuberculin tested, T.T. pasteurised, sterilised or pasteurised and milk bottling is done before reaching Oakham. Oakham is now included in A Special Designations Specified Area, five samples were sent and all proved satisfactory.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :-

| Tuberculin Tested. | Pasteurised. | Sterilised. |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5 | 1 |

Ice Cream.

No ice-cream is now made in Oakham, but seventeen premises are registered for its sale. All of these premises have been inspected at least once during the year.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, Etc.,

Number of inspections ..... 10

There is only one small slaughter house in use in the Urban District.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.

Whole carcases condemned ..... None.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..... None.

Food Premises in the Urban District in December consisted of :-

4 Cafes and a Dairy Shop.
13 Licensed Premises (not including Clubs).
13 Retail Grocers, Etc.,
4 Butchers.
3 Greengrocers.
2 Fishmongers.
4 Bakers and pastrycooks.
5 Sweets etc.,

Number of inspection ..... 30

Premises Registered under Section 14 for
Preparation and Sale of Sausages.
Potted Meats and Meat Pies..... 6
Preparation and sale of Fish and Chips ..... 1

This shop has been inspected several times during the year. It is well kept and is performing a busy and useful function.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

The small quantities involved are disposed of by :-

(a) Burning in the boiler at Council Offices.
(b) Being taken to tip by Refuse Collectors.
(c) Sending to the Hunt Kennels.

A ten lbs. tin cooked imported meat and 31 lbs. canned fruits were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

Food Hygiene.

Food premises in the town have been kept under observation during the year. Advice has been given when necessary, and there have been no special difficulties.

A lively street market has developed during the year on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Many of the stalls sell vegetables, fruit and other foods, and it has been found necessary to draw attention to the Regulations from time to time.

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 2

Closing Order made ..... 1

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 2

Houses demolished without Demolition Orders..... 3

No cases of overcrowding were found during the year.
There were (at 31st.December,1958) 90 Oakham applicants for Council Houses. Twenty of these were sharing houses with parents or others.
There is also a demand for houses from people outside the Urban District, many of whom work in the town.

During the year 14 Council Houses (one for County Council) and seven Private Houses were completed.

At the end of 1958 the Council owned 352 houses, in addition to ten temporary bungalows rented from the Ministry, and one old house acquired in William Dalby Street. Thus over 26% of the houses are controlled by the Council.
In four cases houses were improved and one house was converted into four with Grant Aid under the Housing Acts, and five other improvements were still in progress at the end of the year.

The following table shows new house completions in the last ten years.

| Year. | Houses completed other than by Council. | Council Houses. | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1949 | 16 | 32 | 48 |
| 1950 | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| 1951 | 13 | 37 | 50 |
| 1952 | 11 | 24 | 35 |
| 1953 | 4 | 43 | 47 |
| 1954 | 6 | 44 | 50 |
| 1955 | 15 | 4 | 19 |
| 1956 | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| 1957 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 1958 | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 221 | 321 |

In addition, there have been conversion and adaptations.
In the same period there were 30 demolitions.
40% of the houses in the district have been built in the last 30 years.
Shortage of developed sites will retard housing in 1959.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1958.

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Measles. | 37 | - | - |
| Pneumonia. | 4 | - | 3 |
| Dysentery. | 1 | - | - |
| Food poisoning. | 2 | - | - |

## A G E  G R O U P S.

| Disease. | Under One. | 1 2 | 2 3 | 3 4 | 4 5 | 5 10 | 10 15 | 15 20 | 20 35 | 35 45 | 45 65 | 65 and over. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Measles. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Dysentery. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning. | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

(2)

## T U B E R C U L O S I S.

| Age Group | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 25 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 35 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - 65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

I am again pleased to report that no action was found necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Warwick Lodge,
Melton Mowbray.